



View from the

# Blackdown Hills

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Issue 89 May 2012

## It's your newspaper

*Keeping you in touch with news and events  
in your Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*

# BRIGHT FUTURE

**THE future looks bright for a Blackdown Hills village with the promise of finances and new homes.**

Hemyock Parish Hall Management Committee has managed to secure future income as well as tidy up a village eyesore by teaming up with a builder to erect a block of flats.

Eighteen months ago the committee was confronted by a dilemma over the disused tennis courts adjoining the

village hall. The courts had fallen into disrepair after the tennis club moved to the Longmead Development off Station Road and with a lack of income and no capital funding available, the village hall committee was struggling to find a way to keep up with vital maintenance.

An approach was made to a local builder, Andy Lehner of West of England Developments, who has long standing connections with the village.

Andy and the committee worked together to produce a scheme that has provided eight flats, two of which belong to the committee and will provide them with much needed income for the future. Two of the eight flats are low rent affordable for local people, and the remainder are available for let.

A committee spokesperson said: "The flats have been

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◆ **FROM left, Philip Worth — Worth Property Services Letting Agents, Doug Cartledge — parish hall chairman, Heather Stallard — parish hall secretary, Andy Lehner — West of England Developments (Taunton) Ltd, Larry Forgham — Otter Plumbing and Heating Contractors**



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# Date named for town poll

A DATE has been announced for the Honiton community centre town poll.

Those on the electoral roll of Honiton Parish can have their say on Thursday, May 10th — but it has been stressed that the poll result is not binding.

The precise wording of the poll question is: "Do you, the council tax payers of Honiton, wish the town council to proceed any further with the community centre project?"

Planning permission has been obtained and a formal name of the centre has already been announced, Beehive Community Complex.

Fundraising is under way for the complex, which will be built in Dowell Street car park if the green light is given.

But opinion in the town is divided and the project has been heavily debated.

The debate is still raging and it is hoped that the poll will give a true reflection of the level of support for the project.

A statement issued by Honiton town clerk Lyn Hargood said: "Following the public meeting held in Honiton on Thursday March 29th, Honiton Town Council would like to confirm that the East Devon Returning Officer has confirmed that a town poll will be held on Thursday, May 10th.

"All residents on the electoral roll of Honiton parish will be eligible to vote and should attend their normal polling station — in case of any doubt please contact Honiton Town Council or East Devon District Council.

"The outcome of the poll is no more and no less than an expression of the views of the electorate of the parish who have voted in the poll and is not binding.

"The proposer is Mr Ken Sherman."

The polling stations are Mackarness Hall, The Kings Centre and The Heathfield Public House — which will all be open from 4pm-9pm.

Town clerk Lyn Hargood's statement also said: "Rules for the conduct of the poll are laid down by legislation and are similar to those common to all elections, with some variations."

For example, there will be no provisions for electors' poll cards or for postal or proxy voting.

## Spring 'steam up'

**COLD Harbour Mill in Uffculme is holding a Spring Bank Holiday Steam Up on Monday, May 7th.**

Open from 10.30am, visitors will be able to take a mill tour to see the Victorian textile machines in action and the mill's exhibitions, including the model railway of the former Culm Valley line and the beautiful Millennium tapestry screen depicting the Culm Valley.

Tickets can be bought from the Mill Shop, with free entry to members.

For more information about the mill's steam engines, dates of all this year's Steam Ups, or to volunteer to join the Steam Group, visit the Steam Group website at [www.coldharboursteam.org.uk](http://www.coldharboursteam.org.uk) or call 01884 840960.

# View from the Blackdown Hills

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## Business boost from a dragon

**A BLACKBOROUGH-BASED firm has received a business boost from TV Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis.**

In July of last year, Helen Bottrill, owner of Kindred Rose, tweeted Theo about her business during 'Small Business Sunday', an initiative set up by Theo that runs weekly.

Theo re-tweeted Helen's message to his 230,000 followers and as a result, the business with the web address [www.kindredrose.co.uk](http://www.kindredrose.co.uk) has 200 more followers and extra orders for her bespoke and personalised cushions. They are also profiled on a new website — [www.theopaphitisbs.com](http://www.theopaphitisbs.com) — that is exclusive to Small Business Sunday winners.

Helen said, "I've only been in business two years and I still work out of my garden shed. It is great to have support from Theo because it's been tough trying to raise my profile and Theo has recognised my hard work and helped spread the word about what I do to his following."

Helen met Theo recently to receive her certificate at an #SBS winners event held at Birmingham's Edgbaston Stadium.

Anyone looking for a re-tweet from Theo should tweet him about their business on Sunday between 5pm and 7.30pm and include the hashtag #SBS. Six lucky businesses are re-tweeted every week and then invited to enter their profile on the new



◆ BBC dragon Theo Paphitis and Helen Bottrill

website. This is done free of charge and the new website is sponsored by Ryman Stationery, of which Theo is chairman.

# WORKING OUR WOODLANDS

**Blackdown and East Devon Woodland Association with John Greenshields**

**THE water shortage is now affecting our trees, not so much in the woods but mainly hedgerow trees and singletons, in the woodland some moisture is retained by canopy cover and condensation.**

While on hedge banks the moisture cannot be retained so readily, and we will need months not weeks to address the problem. The new project Woodbiz Woodlands is well under way with six free woodland advice visits already done, and tree grading and management and other courses and events continuing.

If you are thinking of creating a woodland, the new woodland creation grant from the Forestry Commission has just got bigger and better. With £1,800 per hectare, plus special payments for some regional areas up to an extra £2,000 and yearly maintenance payments. The minimum size is a quarter of a hectare, and priority payments to public access and use.

Why not plant a tree or trees for the Queen's Jubilee? Persuade your parish council, the Woodland Trust are giving trees away, especially to community projects and other bodies. Have a look on the website for all sorts of bargains and advice.

When marking up a woodland for thinning operations the other day in a quite fresh wind, a large rotten branch just missed my head. Now, I went straight back to the Land Rover and got my hard hat, which is what I should have put on in the first place. We all tend to forget that the dead branches have to come down some time, and it's well worth looking up now and again!

There is a newly-formed firewood producers group formed under the umbrella of the Woodland Association. All the members are not only association members but are approved by the association.

The main reason for the formation of this group is to help customers get a better and more reliable service, by standardising the deliveries, and selling by volume.

The blossom is out on the fruit trees so spring is on its way, although at present, as I write, it is cold and windy. I have planted a small fruit area in an unused part of the garden and, amongst the raspberries, I have planted 10 blueberry bushes. I was very impressed with a friend's fruit and, yes, I know I will have to build a cage. I once saw a blackbird walk along our raspberry canes and remove all the unripe fruit until he found a ripe one and ate it, and then proceeded to pull off the unripe ones again and so on.

**To contact John call 01823 660764 or email [parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk](mailto:parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk)**

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◆ STUDENTS at Buckland St Mary Primary School during the Sport Relief event

## Children run red riot round the village

**RED** was the colour of the day when pupils at Buckland St Mary CE VA Primary School dressed in the colour and took part in the Sport Relief Mile.

The event took place around the village of Buckland on Friday, March 23rd and every student — ages ranging between

four and 11 — took part.

Parents also joined in running, jogging or walking and other parents and staff marshalled the route, supplying sweets and water along the way.

The event was not a race but an opportunity for all the children to come together with a common goal — to get around and raise money for a worthy

cause.

The children were treated to squash and biscuits once across the finish line and some of them won spot prizes of pens and pencils too. Parents were also rewarded with tea and coffee and biscuits.

Organiser Rachael Auton said that it was a glorious afternoon and the children ran brilliantly.

She said: "I was so proud of them. We had a shortcut, just in case, but all the children completed the full distance, with the last runner crossing the line in under 30 minutes. This was an amazing feat in itself, due to the age of the youngest competitor being only four, but also as it was almost a mile-and-a-half. Plus, we raised a spectacular £110."

# WEBSITE AND NEW GROUPS

**FOLLOWING** the launch of the Blackdown Hills Community Plan last autumn and the call for endorsement and support of its recommendations, ideas are about to move forward.

The Blackdown Hills Parish Network agreed at its last meeting to move ahead to implement high priority actions in three key areas.

A new website will be launched to provide a community information point to complement the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) website's environment and landscape focus and the business focus provided by the Blackdown Hills Business Association.

As well as carrying core information for the parish network and associated action groups, the site will offer a resource for the whole community to raise awareness of opportunities and activities in the area.

These will include practical information such as local transport options available to share and community facilities for hire, as well as a leisure focus with the development of a local events diary, amenity listings for local accommodation, entertainments, eating out, activities, clubs and societies.

A Traffic and Transport group will start work on addressing issues that were raised during the Community Plan consultation

that indicated two areas of immediate concern — first the lack of joined up public transport opportunities in some areas which prevents access to key transport nodes such as Tiverton Parkway Station or frequent bus routes to the regions larger towns, and second the very widespread concern about traffic speed, volume and routing of heavy vehicles in the narrow lanes of the AONB.

In addition, a planning group will be set up with a focus of keeping abreast of the implementation of the new National Planning Policy Framework and to ensure that parish councils have opportunities to understand and contribute to Local Authority Planning decisions.

Funding to start the implementation of the community plan is derived from several sources, including individual parish donations from across the area and locality grants from Devon County Councillors.

In order to maintain momentum and develop an active parish network will require input from people as well.

Anyone who has a particular interest or expertise in any of the information above, then please contact Catherine Bass, Blackdown Hills Parish Network Co-ordinator, either by email at [catherinejbass@googlemail.com](mailto:catherinejbass@googlemail.com) or call 01884 849172.

## Fuel strike threat stops Judi's visit

**CAT-LOVING BBC Radio Devon** presenter Judi Spiers was unable to officially present the Honiton Cats Protection volunteers with a new van last month after she was struck by the threat of a fuel strike.

Co-ordinator Elizabeth Manley said: "Judi was most disappointed not to be able to come due to what's been going on with fuel. However, she has promised that she will come once things are back to normal.

"In the meantime we will be using the van to help with our work so people will see it out and about with our logo and

contact details — provided, of course, that we can get some fuel for it!"

Honiton Cats Protection is currently caring for nine cats who are all looking for loving homes.

Honiton Cats Protection has been running since 1990. Last year, the branch rehomed 58 cats and kittens and helped a further 150 through neutering, returning lost cats to their owners, microchipping and feeding.

To offer a cat a home, please call the branch on 01404 45241 or visit the website at [www.honiton.cats.org.uk](http://www.honiton.cats.org.uk).

## Three loose horses bolt through town

**ONE person and a car were on the casualty list when three horses escaped and bolted down Honiton High Street.**

Police were called in the morning of Monday, April 16th to reports of three horses careering down the street.

An eyewitness, who did not wish to be named, said he saw the horses at full speed on the Axminster side of the church.

He said: All of a sudden three horses were running amok in the middle of the road.

"Nobody could stop them."

Drivers had to take evasive action, and the eyewitness said: "They just passed the traffic lights and paid no attention to traffic."

"They were just tearing down the road. People were astonished and drivers had to stop, particularly those coming up the street."

The eyewitness lost sight of the horses, who headed in the Exeter direction.

A police spokesperson said: "We were called at 10.37am. Three horses were loose in the High Street close to the police station."

"The owners captured them at 10.50am and a lorry collected them."

"One vehicle was slightly damaged by one [horse]. The owner of two horses was injured with an ankle injury and lacerations, attended to by ambulance and conveyed to Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital for treatment."

The statement did not say from where or how the horses had escaped.

## Chickens stolen as rural crime on rise

**CRIME in rural Honiton has risen with chickens being among the items stolen in recent weeks.**

For the period covering March, overall recorded crime figures rose from 10 in 2011 to 22 in 2012.

Police reported that three chickens were stolen from a field in Yacombe. There were nine crimes in Dukeswell, including two burglaries where a safe and a motor vehicle were stolen from commercial premises. The vehicle was later recovered on the Devon and Somerset border.

A jet ski and trailer were stolen from a secure commercial compound and a number of cannabis plants were also found at a business premises in the area. Police ask that anyone with information on any of these crimes should call police on 101.

## Kids' fun farm day

**BEECH Hayes Farm in the Blackdown Hills is holding an under-fives farm fun event on May 7th.**

It's a chance for children to meet the spring-time baby animals, explore the farm and have a go at a fun, family quiz. Little ones can help to bottle feed the lambs, look for eggs, and say hello to the chicks and piglets.

The event starts at 10am until 12.30pm and costs £5 for adults, £3 for under 18s and under-fives are free.

For details contact the Blackdown Hills AONB office on 01823 680681 or email [blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk](mailto:blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk).



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# Scandinavian culture trip for teaching trio



◆ FROM left, June Barker, Harriet English, Jackie Nadeau (teaching assistant)

## A TRIO of Hawkechurch Primary School staff visited Finland as part of an international project.

Teachers June Barker, Harriet English and teaching assistant Jackie Nadeau recently returned from Scandinavia.

They travelled to take part in what is known as the Comenius Programme which, in short, aims to help young people and educational staff "better understand

the range of European cultures, languages and values".

June, Harriet and Jackie's trip had an arts theme and this particular project is formally named The Art Is In Our Hands.

They visited a school in Oulu, in northern Finland, and Harriet said: "The atmosphere in the school was fantastic, the children were so keen."

Harriet said: "It was great to see how different each school had taken the initial

ideas and done something totally unique."

The chair of governors at Hawkechurch, Clare Mackenney, added: "The Finnish education system is regarded as one of the best in the world and the teachers are keen to implement some of the techniques and ideas they saw in the school back here in Devon."

"The project is funded by a grant from the EU and also involves schools from Spain, Poland, Greece, Turkey, Iceland

and Italy.

"The UK teachers were very impressed with the specialist art work that had been produced by the children in Finland."

June agreed by saying: "It was so inspiring. I've come back brimming with ideas."

The Hawkechurch trio also experienced snowshoe walking across the frozen sea and were taught how to control a husky sleigh.

## Workshop provides funding opportunity

PROJECTS in the Blackdown Hills seeking funding could be in with a better chance with a free workshop.

The event is being held for people interested in securing funds for play and sports activities, events, and equipment and opportunities may also be available to improve existing facilities.

It is being run by Making it Local, an economically-driven European funding programme, helping to attract funding to the Blackdown Hills and East Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The workshops will provide ideas and guidance and an opportunity to network with like-minded people who have been successful in securing funding and who can also share their experience of the grant application process.

One of the guest speakers, Jill Borrow from Active Devon, will be talking about sources of sports funding and how to make a good application. Uptonery Playing Field Association members will share how they gained funding for their innovative sports project.

Jamie Buckley, of East Devon District Council, will be speaking about which communities are eligible for Section 106 money for recreation and play and how to go about getting it. Members of the Chardstock Park Trust will also attend to talk about their experiences of finding national and local funding for their playground project.

One workshop has already taken place last month but the second will take place on May 1st between 6.30 – 8.30pm at Chardstock Community Hall, near Axminster.

Contact the Making it Local team for details and to book your place on 01823 680626 or email [makingitlocal@devon.gov.uk](mailto:makingitlocal@devon.gov.uk).

## Bat detecting help

IF you have ever fancied learning how to use a bat detector, now is your chance.

Somerset Environmental Records Centre and Somerset Bat Group are holding a workshop at Churchford Cricket Pavilion on May 25th and the public can help out with an important bat survey.

The workshop will explain how to survey for bats so that participants can take part in the Big Bat Survey on July 20th.

The workshop will include an indoor session and a night-time walk to listen to bat calls.

The free event starts at 7.30pm, but places are limited so booking is essential. For more information contact Agni Arampoglou on 01823 664450 or email [info@somerc.com](mailto:info@somerc.com).

# New free tool for building and restoring in the hills

HOMEOWNERS, architects, planners, builders and restorers now have a new tool for working successfully in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Blackdown Hills AONB, on the border of Devon and Somerset, has protected status partly due to the quality and distinctiveness of its historic rural buildings.

The AONB team has published a free, 24-page booklet, called the Design Guide for Houses, which offers a summary of all the architectural details which make up the vernacular style. It celebrates local materials and encourages anyone involved in creating new buildings to work in harmony with the scale and character of the landscape.

It also offers a brief but fascinating history of human settlement and the influence of geology, climate and technology on local construction.

Blackdown Hills AONB partnership chairman, Paul Diviani says: "This is not chocolate box, stylised countryside – yes, we have the thatched cottages, the wildflowers, the high-banked, hedged lanes, but also working farms and villages, smells and mess."

"The advice in this guide can be applied to modern, cutting-edge development or to the restoration of very old houses. We're promoting sustainable construction and sensitivity to climate change – all from the starting point of thinking about the relationship between the landscape and buildings."

The Design Guide for Houses can be downloaded from the Blackdown Hills AONB website at [www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk/Planning.html](http://www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk/Planning.html). Hard copies can be obtained from the AONB office by calling 01823 680681 or by emailing [blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk](mailto:blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk)

## Beehive Bazaar raises £500 for complex

FUNDS for the new community complex in Honiton have been boosted a further £500 following the launch of a fundraising campaign.

The fundraising total now stands at £3,500.

The Beehive Bazaar fundraiser, held at the Mackarness Hall, saw the mayor, Councillor Vernon Whitlock, as well as councillors, and community supporters gather to celebrate the district council granting planning permission for the community complex.

A spokesperson for the fundraising group said: "An

enormous thank you to everyone who came and supported The Beehive Bazaar. It was something which involved a wonderful team of people working very hard behind the scenes to make it such a success."

"We were all very proud of the result and are looking forward to all the other events and projects lined up."

To keep up to date with fundraising visit [www.honiton.gov.uk](http://www.honiton.gov.uk) or join the Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Honiton-Community-Complex/18879041707>.

## Resolution finds valuable village asset

■ FROM page 1

designed to fit with and respect the surrounding buildings and fit well into the street scene.

"They have been built to a very high standard of thermal efficiency and such heating as is necessary is provided by individual air source heat pumps to minimise energy demands and carbon footprint. Larry Forgham of Otters South West, who designed and installed the system and

under floor heating, says: This is the heating system of the future — a clean, efficient, and totally controllable room by room system so that no energy is wasted."

Doug Cartledge, Parish Hall Management Committee chairman said: "A successful resolution has been found after the initial concerns raised by some local residents. Robins Court will prove to be a valuable asset to both the parish hall and the village of Hemyock."

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# A View from the Blackdowns



◆ SOME of the stunning bluebells on show in the Blackdown Hills, by Val Godsmark  
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## Over-pruning leaves coppice barren

COPPICE along the River Tale at Broadhembury has been left desolate and barren according to one local.

Villagers who went to tidy up the hedge and trees were over zealous in their pruning and went on to fell a significant number of trees, according to a local resident who called it wanton destruction.

The incident was reported to Broadhembury Parish Council and the local tree warden before being referred to

East Devon District Council (EDDC) and the Forestry Commission who have now investigated the site.

EDDC tree officer David Coleman went down to Broadhembury with a representative from the Forestry Commission to ascertain whether or not the felling amounted to a criminal offence.

A spokesperson for the Forestry Commission said: "Under regulations there was not enough cleared to warrant further action.

"A number of the stumps showed signs of rot and would

therefore not count.

"We are not taking the matter forward to prosecution."

Forestry commission guidelines state that five cubic metres of coppice can be cleared per calendar quarter and the incident at Broadhembury was not believed to exceed this.

The spokesperson also added that the electricity board, usually exempt from such regulations, had recently cleared coppice in the area and this may have made the felling seem worse than it was.

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◆ LEFT, Offwell Primary School pupils in the reception class brought a colourful array of bonnets to the event. Above, Three teeny pre-school entrants took part making it a tough decision for the judges to decide on the winning bonnet. Below, Year 2 children from Offwell Primary School show off their bonnets in the sunshine

# Hats off for school first

**SPRING proved it had sprung in Offwell as primary schoolchildren donned bonnets for an Easter parade.**

Pupils from Offwell C of E Primary School showed off their Easter bonnets in the sunshine to raise funds for their school.

Organised by the school's Parents and Teachers Association (PTA), the first ever Easter parade took place at Offwell Village Hall last month where over a hundred people gathered for an afternoon of Easter fun.

The aim of the parade was to raise funds for a new climbing wall at the school as part of the Trim Trail, promoting fitness and fun exercise.

Included in the day was a bright and colourful Easter bonnet parade where all of the local children came out in full force to compete for the winning bonnet.

Each year group took it in turns to show their creations on stage to a panel of judges and even the local pre-school and toddler group joined in, bringing the 'cute factor' to the afternoon.

Also judged on the day was a

Decorated Egg Competition where the sides of the hall were filled with brilliant eggs decorated with designs from kings and queens to animals and Easter-themed decorations.

Rosettes and certificates were awarded for first, second and third places in the competitions with the first prize winner also gaining an extra special Easter egg for their efforts.

In the week leading up to the parade, the children also had the chance to draw up their own designs for an Easter cake.

Two of the winning designs were

chosen and the two-tier cake was then created by a parent, and alongside an array of seasonal treats, was made a raffle prize on the day.

Organiser from Offwell C of E Primary School PTA, Emma Milford, said: "It was absolutely fantastic to see so many family and friends attend the event.

"It couldn't have happened without the help and support of the school's PTA and of course the enthusiasm and creativity of the children.

"It was a great success and will be repeated next Easter — only bigger and better!"



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**17, 18, 19 May**

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**www.devoncountyshow.co.uk**

\*3 children (aged 5-15) are admitted FREE on Saturday when accompanied by one paying adult





# Mystery surrounds finding of a possible dead 'polecat'

**B**RAIN Waite, who moved to the Blackdown Hills from Yorkshire two years ago, has written to tell me that he recently discovered a road-kill polecat in the narrow lane where he lives between Hemyock and Smeatharpe.

However, he is not sure whether it was a true polecat or polecat cross. He also tells me that four swallows have arrived, and chiffchaffs, blackcaps and willow warblers have been seen here.

Lucky chap! We are still awaiting the first swallow, now nearly three weeks late, and I am beginning to wonder whether the current snap of biting cold weather and consequent lack of insect life is inhibiting their movement countrywide?

Another bird which is notably absent although a resident is the starling. Not a single one has been

seen for months, although there was a time when the field by the house would be alive with to-ing and fro-ing flocks seeking insect life amongst the cow pats.

The Dorset Wildlife Trust's 450-acre Kingcombe Centre is organising Wednesday afternoon guided walks round this unspoilt nature reserve. There will be a variety of walks, including those with an emphasis on bird life, fungi, farming and a night time bat walk, as well as walks specially designed for walkers with dogs.

However, if you don't fancy a guided walk, you can set off on your own and even come back to overnight accommodation and the Conservatory cafe.

The walks take place every Wednesday until October 10th from 2.15pm to 4pm and the cost for adults is £6 and children £3, to include tea and cakes.

An alternative walk will take place on May 5th from 2pm to 5pm at Lorton Meadows Conservation Centre and Nature Reserve, at Lorton Lane, Upwey, Weymouth. The cost is £1 to include refreshments. Call 01305 816546 for further information.

No sign as yet of the first swallows here at Tatworth, but several immigrants have been seen in the Colyton area, as Graham Stephens from that region has told me. In fact, he spotted a group of five heading towards Colyton, while Rosemary Tilbury emails to tell me that on March 26th she saw two house martins inspecting nests under the eaves of her cottage.

She has also heard chiffchaffs and blackcaps and has spotted an array of butterflies, including a brimstone, peacocks, red admirals, orange tips, holly blues and a small tortoiseshell.

I, too, have spotted orange tips (the male has the orange tip to its wings, the female has grey tips) inspecting the numerous flower heads of lady's smock or cuckoo plant upon which it lays its eggs. This butterfly, incidentally, is avoided by birds as its body tastes bitter and the orange wing tips of the patrolling male act as a warning to any would-be predatory birds. Lady's smock, incidentally, is also called the cuckoo plant as its flowering was once considered to coincide with the arrival of the first cuckoos. Now, sadly, these migrants have become increasingly rare and I can only recall hearing one last year.

■ Mention of the dead "polecat" or polecat-ferret which I recently encountered, drew a response from a reader, Karen Maddox of Honiton who told me that her late father worked as infestation officer for the

then Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) and, in the course of his work, polecat-ferrets occasionally turned up. It appeared that ferreters were introducing wild polecat blood into their domesticated stock in order to produce more vigour. However, these first generation kits invariably proved as vicious as their wild sire or dam and were usually discarded. I suspect the animal I found was indeed a polecat cross but why it had died remains a mystery. I wonder whether any readers have come across these animals? I have been told that pure-bred polecats have been introduced and investigation via the web reveals that a considerable number of road casualty "polecats" have been encountered in Somerset, Dorset and Devon over the past decade or so.

Certainly, genuine wild polecats have expanded their range from

Wales into England and there is little reason to suppose they will not continue to establish themselves throughout the country. It is believed that there are now far more polecats in England than in Wales.

The genuine wild polecat carries a distinctive white mask on its head, a feature which was absent from the animal I found. It was, incidentally, once called the foulmart, an allusion to the disgusting smell it could produce when cornered or under attack. The pine marten, on the other hand, was known as the sweetmart.

To contact Tony Jackson, write to: Country Scene, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD or by email to: [wardjackson@fiscali.co.uk](mailto:wardjackson@fiscali.co.uk)

The views expressed are those of the columnist and not necessarily of the newspaper.

## A WALK IN THE YARCOMBE AREA

Location: Yarcombe, park at the village hall car park.

Date: 29 Apr 12 Time: 10:00 - 13:00

Cost: Free

Walk from Yarcombe visiting Chaffhay Farm, Broadley Farm, Broadley Hill, Underdown Moor, Red Script, Beacon Hill and return to Yarcombe. Views across the Yarty Valley. Bring a packed lunch and a drink. There will be an opportunity for refreshments at the Yarcombe Inn at the end of the walk.

For more information: Contact Tim Pitcher, Tel: 01404 881512 or 07715 490229

Blackdown Hills Walking Group

## GUIDED BUTTERFLY WALK

Location: Buckland Wood / Quants. Map ref: ST 188 180

Date: 06 May 12 Time: 11:00 - 14:00

Cost: Free

A guided walk with a butterfly expert. See if you can spot the brown argus, duke of Burgundy, dingy skipper, green hairstreak or the grizzled skipper. Event led by Mike Ridge of Butterfly Conservation.

For more information: Contact Mike Ridge, Butterfly Conservation on 01278 450793 and see [www.somerset-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.somerset-butterflies.org.uk)

Butterfly Conservation

## DAWN CHORUS FOLLOWED BY BREAKFAST

Location: Seville Croft, Hemyock

Date: 05 May 12 Time: 05:00 - 08:00

Cost: Adults £12, Children under 16 £8. Booking essential.

A pre-dawn walk into woodland, where you'll be taken to your own personal quiet spot to experience the dawn chorus. Then a walk down through the bluebells for a full English breakfast, to talk about what's been heard and seen and to watch the birds coming to feeders.

For more information: Contact Richard and Alison Whiteside, 01823 680931

Wildside Experience

## UNDER FIVES FARM FUN

Location: Beech Hayes Farm near Churchinford. TA3 7DW

Dates: 07 May 12 Time: 10:00 - 12:30

Cost: Adults £5. Under 18s £3. Under 5s free. Booking essential.

Come along to friendly Beech Hayes Farm and meet the spring time babies. Explore at your own pace and have a go at a fun family quiz. Little ones can help to bottle feed the lambs, look for eggs, and say hello to the chicks and piglets.

For more information: Contact the Blackdown Hills AONB office on 01823 680681 or email [blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk](mailto:blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk)

Blackdown Hills AONB

## ORIENTEERING FOREST LEAGUE

Location: Staple Hill TA20 3QY

Dates: 13 May 12

Time: 10:30 - 12:30 registration, start 11:00 - 13:00, finish by 15:00

Cost: £7 seniors (£5 members) / £12 (£10) families / £2 junior /

£6 non-competitive families / £1 dibber hire.

A variety of courses available catering for beginners up to experts.

For more information: Contact Jeff Pakes 01823 321900 or Ian Husband

01823 321900

Quantock Orienteers

## DEER AND PEST DAMAGE LIMITATION IN WOODLANDS

Location: Park Farm Wellington TA21 9NP

Dates: 16 May 12

Time: 10:00 - 16:30

Cost: £60 or £45 to BEDWA members, to include a light lunch.

Booking essential

A day of information on all aspects of control and deterrent of woodland pests such as squirrel, including management of our native deer. We'll look at the law, densities, guarding, fencing, and other methods of limiting damage to trees and flora.

For more information: Contact John Greenshields on 01823 660764 or

email [parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk](mailto:parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk). More details at [www.woodbiz.co.uk](http://www.woodbiz.co.uk)

## THE EMERALD DRAGON AT BRENDON BOOKS

Dates: 17 May 12 Time: 19:00 - 20:30

Location: Brendon Books, Taunton

Storyteller and author Clare Viner invites you the launch of her new book 'The Emerald Dragon'. Clare will be telling stories from the book, which stem from traditional local folk and fairy tales from the two AONBs, brought alive with magical twists. A glass of wine and nibbles will be available.

Cost: £4. Booking essential.

For more information: To book call Brendon Books on 01823 337742 or email [brendonbooks@gmail.com](mailto:brendonbooks@gmail.com)

Blackdown Hills AONB / Quantock Hills AONB

## AQUAPONICS

Location: Upper Hayne Farm, EX15 2JD

Dates: 19 - 20 May 12

Location: Upper Hayne Farm

Time: 10:00 - 17:00 each day

Cost: £150 for 2 days inc lunches & refreshments. Booking essential

Learn how to grow fish, vegetables & fruit for the table, in an integrated system, in your back garden, green house, poly-tunnel or shed. Camping space available with use of hot shower at £5 per person per night

For more information: Contact Jimmie Hepburn on 01823 680888 or email: [info@aquavisiononline.com](mailto:info@aquavisiononline.com)

Aquavision

## WALK ALONG THE CULM VALLEY

Location: Meet outside the Culm Valley Inn, Culmstock

Dates: 20 May 12 Time: 14:00 - 17:00

Cost: Free

A gentle circular walk from Culmstock to Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme. About 4 miles/6.5km and very flat, but muddy in places. There should be time for a cuppa at the Mill if wanted.

For more information: Contact Julie Steed, 01823 680787, [steadjulie@rocketmail.com](mailto:steadjulie@rocketmail.com)

## BIG BAT SURVEY, BAT TRAINING WORKSHOP

Location: Churchinford Cricket Pavilion, TA3 7RA

Dates: 25 May 12 Time: 19:30 - 10:00 (estimated)

Cost: Free. Booking essential as places are limited.

Learn to use a bat detector and help out with an important bat survey with Somerset Environmental Records Centre and Somerset Bat Group. The workshop will explain how to survey for bats so that you can take part in the Big Bat Survey on 20 July 2012. The workshop will include an indoor session and a night-time walk to listen to bat calls.

For more information: Contact Agni Arampoglou on 01823 664450 / [info@somerc.com](mailto:info@somerc.com) or see [www.somerc.com](http://www.somerc.com)

SERC

## INTRODUCTION TO GREEN WOODWORKING

Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine

Dates: 26 May 12 Time: 10:00 - 16:30

Cost: £60 incl. materials (or £110 for 26/27 May courses together).

Booking required.

Learn how to work with unseasoned wood the traditional way, with Tim Beazley. No experience necessary. Learn about sawing, cleaving, shaving and turning, and practise these techniques using a shave horse and pole lathe.

For more information: Contact the Neroche office on 01823 680846, or at [info@nerochescheme.org](mailto:info@nerochescheme.org)

Neroche

## NEXT STEPS IN GREEN WOODWORKING

Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine

Dates: 27 May 12 Time: 10:00 - 16:30

Cost: £60 incl. materials (or £110 for 26/27 May courses together).

Booking required.

If you've already done an introductory course, hone and extend your green woodworking skills, creating an item of your choice, something turned or shaved, under the expert guidance of Tim Beazley.

For more information: Contact the Neroche office on 01823 680846, or at [info@nerochescheme.org](mailto:info@nerochescheme.org)

# Leisure Review

Advertising sales: 01297 32601 [louise@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:louise@tindlenews.co.uk)

Editorial: 01297 631120 [blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk)

## Fun family experience

### FREE Leisure Review Diary Dates listing form

Date .....  
Event .....  
Time .....  
Venue .....  
Town/Village .....  
Organised by ..... Tel no .....

#### Send your Diary Dates to:

View from the Blackdown Hills, Tindle House, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD or email [blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk).

Please note: This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries, we cannot guarantee all listings submitted will be published. Please use one form per event.

WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE DIARY DATES LISTINGS OR QUERIES OVER THE PHONE  
Deadline for Diary Dates entries is on Fridays at 12 noon

A UNIQUE experience for all the family is offered over a forthcoming weekend across the east Devon and Blackdown Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

On Saturday and Sunday, May 12th and 13th, forges will be firing up, weaving and spinning machines and potters wheels will be flying, when the second annual Artisans' trail opens to visitors.

This glorious corner of the Westcountry boasts 32 businesses which will welcome local people and visitors to take a peep behind the doors of studios, workshops and kitchens to show how people use their skills and creativity to make and deliver unique products and services that have become part of the identity of the area.

Val Baker, of the Blackdown Hills Business Association and organiser of this event, said: "Our local craftsmen will open their doors from 10am to 4pm on both days. We will also be highlighting a number of galleries and local attractions in towns and villages in east Devon that host their own exhibitions for local artisans and artists throughout the year.

"There is a wealth of creative talent tucked away in this beautiful landscape. Come and see our artisans baking bread, making glass or try your hand at turning a pot on a potter's wheel."

Visitors will also find a master saddler, soft furnishings maker, furniture restorer and upholsterer on the trail.

There is a new 2012 guide of Blackdown Hills and East Devon Artisans which includes over 40 businesses. Alternatively, visit the Blackdown Hills Directory at [www.blackdown-hills.co.uk](http://www.blackdown-hills.co.uk).

## Diary dates

#### Every Thursday

**CHARD:** Zumba at The Guildhall, Chard. It's a combination of exciting unique latin moves and rhythms. It gives you a fun-based fitness workout. From 7.30pm until 8.30pm. For more information phone 07738 014409 or email [zumbasom@hotmail.com](mailto:zumbasom@hotmail.com).

**CHARD:** Chard Guildhall Antiques and Collectors Fair from 8 am. Free admission and a thriving fair with a good mix of regular and casual stallholders. Offering a fantastic range of good quality products. New stallholders always welcome. Contact 01460 239567 for more information.

#### Every Tuesday

**CHARD:** Slimming World at The Guildhall, Chard. Morning sessions at 9.30am and 11.30am. Please phone Jenny on 01460 61786. Evening sessions at 5.30pm and 7.30pm. Please phone Charlie on 07790935647.

Send details of your Blackdown Hills events by using the form or email us at [blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk)

## Horseshoes



A warm welcome awaits you at the o'Horseshoes  
Usepark surrounding and a host of activities and places to visit locally

Self catering 2 bedroom sleeps four holiday cottage (one level)

This newly created, spacious character barn conversion sits in the peaceful unspoilt heart of the Blackdown Hills, designated as an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It is ideally located for enjoying exceptional habitats for wildlife, a wonderful maze of fine walks and trails, cycling, wildlife/landscape photography, horseriding for all equestrian interests or just to experience the good country life.

There are two local pubs nearby; The Half Moon and The Merry Harries who have been selected for a prestigious award in the 'Good Food Pub Guide 2012'.

On arrival holidaymakers will be welcomed with homemade sausages and bacon from our family run village shop, close by in Wellington.

Sorry no smoking and no pets

Contact Anthea Coate 01823 681178 / 662157, email [michaelcoate@googlemail.com](mailto:michaelcoate@googlemail.com) or through [Hoseasons.co.uk](http://Hoseasons.co.uk) cottages code E5369

Clayhidon, Cullompton, South Devon



## VOLUNTEER COLLECTORS NEEDED



### Please spare a little time to help the RNLI

Once again, the RNLI has been given the opportunity of carrying out store collections at Tesco in Cullompton, Honiton and Axminster on Friday, May 18th and Saturday 19th.

We look on these as great fundraising opportunities but, this year, we are desperately short of volunteer collectors. All we ask is just a couple of hours of your time to don a yellow Lifeboat jacket and hold one of our collecting buckets. By doing so, you will be playing a big part in helping our volunteer lifeboat crews in their work of saving lives at sea - and with any luck you won't even get wet!

The RNLI is a charity, dedicated to saving lives at sea along the 19000 mile coastline of the UK and Ireland and last year our volunteer lifeboat crews, who are on call 24/7, spent a collective total of 203,000 hours at sea, launching 8905 times and rescuing 7976 people - our second busiest year ever.

If you feel able to give just a couple of hours of your time over those two days, we would be delighted to hear from you

Please contact Peter Goodes  
Honiton and District RNLI Branch  
on 01404 42081





## May Day Bank Holiday - Great Music in Wellington

### Blackdowns Early Music Projects

The forthcoming May Bank Holiday weekend sees the first Blackdowns Early Music Project (BEMP) of 2012. The projects are organised by Culmstock residents, Catherine & Geoffrey Bass, both keen musicians, who organised the first project in 2004. Concerts of choral music composed between the 1400s and mid 1700s have been performed every year all around the Blackdowns, from Wellington to Chard, Culmstock to Buckland St Mary and Taunton.

The music chosen for the programmes frequently offers unfamiliar repertoire written by musicians who had a reputation in their own time, but whose music was lost or split up due to historical circumstances. The projects bring together experienced singers over a long weekend to work with musical directors on rediscovered compositions, closing with a public concert, often with an ensemble of musicians playing period instruments to recreate the sound and atmosphere of the earliest performances.

Over the Bank Holiday weekend, Culmstock will be home to 30 experienced singers, invited from all over the UK and Holland, working together on music to be performed in a concert on Monday May 7th at 6.30 in the Parish Church of St John, Wellington.



BEMP's principal director JanJoost van Elburg is much admired for the way in which he works with his singers. He has devised a programme exploring the musical, historical and religious circumstances that were the background to the amazing output of J.S. Bach.

J.S. Bach's inspiration can be heard in music composed over a period of 250 years, by composers whose names are much less familiar than that of JSB himself, yet nonetheless important. The greatest musical influence in Bach's life was the Lutheran Church, for which the first music was composed by Johann Walter, born in 1496. Italian Renaissance influences became apparent in Northern European music during the 16th century, and Bach's own ancestors and family showed signs of the musical genius that was to be manifest in JSB himself until he died in 1750.

Working with the singers on May 7th, will be Steven Hollas (chamber organ), Henrik Persson (viola da gamba) and Jan Spencer (violin) pictured below in rehearsal. The Parish Church in Wellington is well known for its splendid acoustic and also offers a clear view for audiences.



Car parking is easy in Longforth Road carpark (Asda), and the church has full disabled access. Interval refreshments will be available and everyone can expect to enjoy this concert of very accessible music - Bach really doesn't bite!

For ticket purchases see information to the right.

For any other information about Blackdowns Early Music Projects or to receive regular email alerts about future dates, email [information@blackdownsearlymusic.co.uk](mailto:information@blackdownsearlymusic.co.uk) or call Catherine & Geoffrey Bass on 01884 849172.

Blackdowns Early Music Projects 2012

## J S Bach's Inspiration

Music by Walter, Franck, Pachelbel, J S Bach & his relatives

**Director**  
**JanJoost van Elburg**

**Monday 7th May 6.30 pm**  
**Parish Church of St John**  
**Wellington TA21 8QY**

**Tickets £12, students £6**  
**Children under 12 free**

Taunton TIC 01823 336344  
Wellington Books 01823 663308  
[www.blackdownsearlymusic.co.uk](http://www.blackdownsearlymusic.co.uk)  
Also at the door or call 01884 849172



## The Kings Arms

Stockland EX14 9BS

*A very cosy country pub serving fresh local home cooked food at affordable prices!*

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**And all day Saturday & Sunday**

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**Thursday Night Is Steak Night! 2 steaks and a bottle of wine £27.50**

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**Local Ales - Good Selection of Wines - Beer Garden & Ample Parking**

**Skittle Teams Welcome**

**Tel: 01404 881385 Email: [info@realinns.co.uk](mailto:info@realinns.co.uk)**

## Great food and a warm welcome!

New owners Chris and Ceri Ward have been busy spending the past six months breathing life back into the Kings Arms in Stockland after it had been closed for a period of time.

Focussing on fresh home cooked food using as much local produce as possible, along with good old fashioned great customer service they will be making sure that everyone feels welcome and well catered for.

Traditional home cooking from cottage pie or lasagne to a tasty succulent locally produced steak, all at affordable prices will be available from the bar snack menu each day. There will also be a daily specials board offering fresh fish and a variety of creative choices prepared by the chef who, being local, will know exactly where to get his hands on the best seasonal produce. A separate tempting menu is especially designed for the evening with a choice of home made sweets. Otter Ales and Otter Amber both brewed close by and a good variety of selected wines make it possible to round off the evening nicely!

The Kings Arms is an ideal venue to meet with family or friends for a drink and bite to eat, also for special occasions or functions which can be celebrated in the private cosy restaurant or held in the skittle alley where up to 100 people can be catered for. The three ensuite letting rooms allow a few guests to stay over.

This country pub is set deep in the Blackdown Hills, its walls steeped in history, cosy bars and restaurants, with every nook and cranny beckoning to be discovered.

The Kings Arms offers something for everyone, a visit will almost certainly ensure a return trip.





# Wellington School

## SOMERSET

ages 3 - 18



## Open Morning

Monday 7 May, 9.30am - 12.00noon


[www.wellington-school.org.uk](http://www.wellington-school.org.uk)


**W**HY do so many families choose to send their children to Wellington School? Is it because of its consistently good academic results?

Its highly acclaimed reputation for music and theatre, sport and outdoor activities?

Is it, as so many prospective parents say, the welcoming atmosphere they feel on first entering the School?

Is it the evident enthusiasm for learning seen in every classroom from the youngest in the Junior School right through to the Sixth Form?

The ethos of Wellington School is simple; that each and every pupil should be helped and encouraged to develop his or her own particular talents to the full. Traditional values of hard work, good behaviour and unpretentious manners are held in high esteem, complemented by the total commitment of the staff to the individual needs, personal welfare and happiness of every single pupil.

An Open Morning during the week when the school is working is an excellent time to view the school so do come and join us on Monday 7 May, 9.30 am- 12 noon.

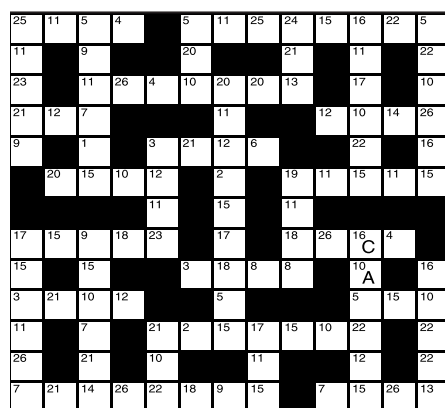


## Brain Gym

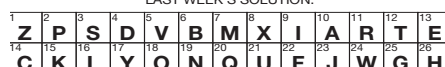
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### Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
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### Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

#### Cryptic Clues:

##### Across

- Needle without an eye? (7)
- Drop it, perhaps, being apathetic (6)
- Gets the better of the teachers? (7)
- Very much the opposite (6)
- Really can fit when adjusted properly (2,4)
- Car owner in distress, and showing it! (8)
- Hide inside bands-men's concert instruments (8)
- He makes things hot for his employer (6)
- There's no telling if it is to be kept (6)
- Fight with some noise like a bird (7)
- Foresee six coming in to eat (6)
- Where to obtain a degree in common talk (7)

##### Down

- The type inclined to emphasise (7)
- They give people their addresses (7)
- The pattern of old China (6)
- If you lose them, you're lost! (8)
- Released — or shot (3,3)
- Smart evergreen (6)
- Garment worn out (8)
- Prepare to travel in a decent raincoat (7)
- Seats one pays for (7)
- A state of perfection (6)
- They weren't worn long during the Sixties (6)
- He takes orders and forms a circle (6)

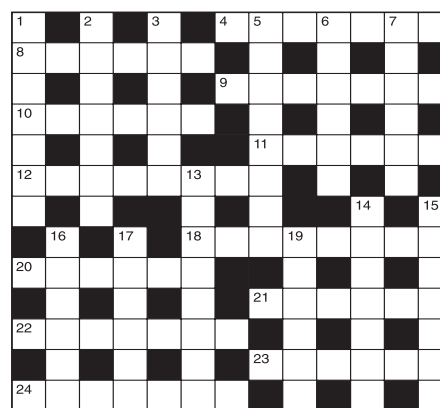
#### Quick Clues:

##### Across

- Recipe (7)
- Wonder (6)
- Law (7)
- Kidnap (6)
- Originate (6)
- Scowling (8)
- Not obligatory (8)
- To journey (6)
- To still (6)
- To cloy (7)
- Get down (6)
- Fruit course (7)

##### Down

- Lovable (7)
- Boring tool (7)
- Swordsmen (6)
- Unqualified (8)
- Purpose (6)
- Hidden (6)
- Image worshipper (8)
- Magnify (7)
- A region's weather (7)
- Decorated (6)
- Evades (6)
- Models of perfection (6)



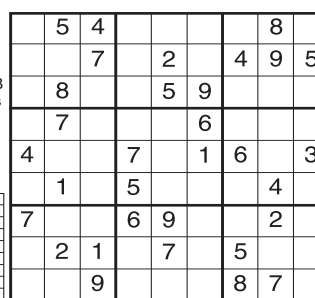
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Photography; 9 Ire; 10 Pentagon; 11 Essay; 13 Rancour; 14 Nuance; 16 Stairs; 18 Ingrate; 19 Again; 20 Extra hand; 21 Don; 22 Presumption. Down: 2 Hoe; 3 Topsy; 4 Gentry; 5 Against; 6 Harmonica; 7 Fire engines; 8 Imprisoning; 12 Slaughter; 15 Cravats; 17 Becalm; 19 Audit; 21 Duo. QUICK - Across: 1 Opprobrious; 9 Bet; 10 Plausible; 11 Tacky; 13 Expanse; 14 Untidy; 16 Advise; 18 Time-lag; 19 Fight; 20 Variegated; 21 Era; 22 Institution. Down: 2 Put; 3 Reply; 4 Brazen; 5 Inspired; 6 Unbending; 7 Obstructive; 8 Differential; 12 Catamaran; 15 Dullest; 17 Aghast; 19 Fleet; 21 Ego.

### Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

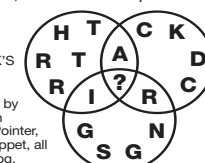
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;



### Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is P. Pointer, spaniel, whippet, all breeds of dog.


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Blackdown Hills  
Business Association

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- ❖ Quiz them
- ❖ Admire their talent and skill
- ❖ Try your hand at some of their activities
- ❖ Even buy from them!

Where to find  
the artisans



A Blackdown Hills and East Devon Artisans' Guide is available FREE from local outlets in and around the area. A list of the outlets is in the online directory: [www.blackdown-hills.co.uk](http://www.blackdown-hills.co.uk)

Or you can ring us on  
01823 681484  
or email us at  
[info@bhba.org.uk](mailto:info@bhba.org.uk)  
and we'll tell you where your nearest one is.

NB: Sat Navs don't always provide the easiest or most direct routes in this area.



1 Sweetbay Studio Spinners & Weavers  
Sweetbay Studio, Sweetbay Close, Stapleford, TA3 7HG  
Tel 01480 234653

2 Chris Webb Artist & Craftsman  
Black Day Studio, Bideford, Stapleford, TA3 7HG  
Tel 01480 234653 [www.chriswebb-artist.co.uk](http://www.chriswebb-artist.co.uk)

3 Gilly's Bakery (open Sunday only)  
The Old, Manor Cottage, Stone Lane, Wembury, TA20 3ED  
Tel 01480 250633 [www.gillysbakery.co.uk](http://www.gillysbakery.co.uk)

4 Robert Parker (Woodcrafter)  
Woodcrafter, Bideford, Devon, TA20 3ED  
Tel 01480 234679 [www.woodcrafter.co.uk](http://www.woodcrafter.co.uk)

5 Tricky Cider  
The Bakery, Hinton Road, Chudleigh, Taunton, TA3 7HF  
Tel 01823 582752 [www.trickycider.com](http://www.trickycider.com)

6 Beech Hayes Farm  
Chudleigh, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7HF  
Tel 01480 234679 [www.beechhayesfarm.co.uk](http://www.beechhayesfarm.co.uk)

7 The Blackdown Hills Cheese Company  
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8 Nicola Warner Majolica Pottery  
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Tel 01480 234679 [www.nicla-warner.com](http://www.nicla-warner.com)

9 David Bell Furniture Restoration  
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21 Glass Farm, Hemyock, Devon, EX15 3GP  
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13 Ross Emerson Ceramic Sculpture  
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Devon, EX15 3JZ  
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14 Common Leaf Bakery (open Sunday only)  
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15 Hollies Trout Farm & Fishery  
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Tel 01480 811429 [www.hollies-trout.co.uk](http://www.hollies-trout.co.uk)

16 David Lloyd Cabinet Maker  
Unit 30, Marcup Road, Chudleigh, Devon, EX14 4JA  
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17 Kimble Rose  
4 New Buildings, Blackdown, Colyton, EX15 2BH  
Tel 01480 260008 [www.kimble-rose.co.uk](http://www.kimble-rose.co.uk)

18 Hybrid Gallery (open Saturday only)  
51 High Street, Hinton, EX14 4PW  
Tel 01480 430051 [www.hybrid-devon.co.uk](http://www.hybrid-devon.co.uk)

19 Colylock Kitchens (open Saturday only)  
58 High Street, Hinton, EX14 4PW  
Tel 01480 430051 [www.colylockkitchens.co.uk](http://www.colylockkitchens.co.uk)

20 Helen G Beale  
Kingsfisher House, Hemyock, Devon, EX15 3JZ  
Tel 01823 681173 [www.helenbeale.co.uk](http://www.helenbeale.co.uk)

21 Gill Campbell Master Saddler  
Deerhaven, Ashcombe, Hemyock, EX15 3BU  
Tel 01823 681173 [www.gillcampbell.co.uk](http://www.gillcampbell.co.uk)

22 The Devon Artisan  
The Devon Artisan, Hemyock, Devon, EX15 3BU  
Tel 01823 681173 [www.devonartisan.co.uk](http://www.devonartisan.co.uk)

23 The Marie Gallery (open Saturday only)  
Victoria Place, Axminster, EX13 3HG  
Tel 01392 830678 [www.themariegallery.co.uk](http://www.themariegallery.co.uk)

24 The Lynne Bay Winery  
Brake, Axminster, Devon, EX13 3HG  
Tel 01392 551355 [www.lynnabaywinery.co.uk](http://www.lynnabaywinery.co.uk)

25 Marina House & Steam Gallery at Beer  
Pore Street, Beer, Devon, EX12 3EP  
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30 Ark Pottery  
Higher Darnes, Wigginton, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1PY  
Tel 01480 430051 [www.arkpottery.co.uk](http://www.arkpottery.co.uk)

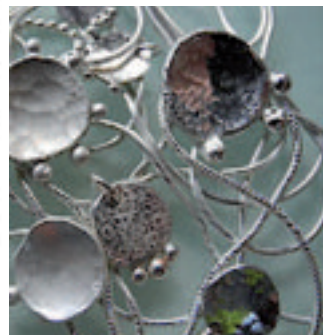
31 Ann Bradford Jewellery  
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Mobile 0151 6845478 [www.annbradfordjewellery.co.uk](http://www.annbradfordjewellery.co.uk)

32 Matt Gingle Blacksmiths  
Palslands, Exco Park, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1LU  
Tel 01480 430051 or mobile 0151 226384  
[www.mattgingle.co.uk](http://www.mattgingle.co.uk)

33 Exco Park  
Ottery St Mary, EX11 1LU  
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Tchaikovsky: Serenade for Strings



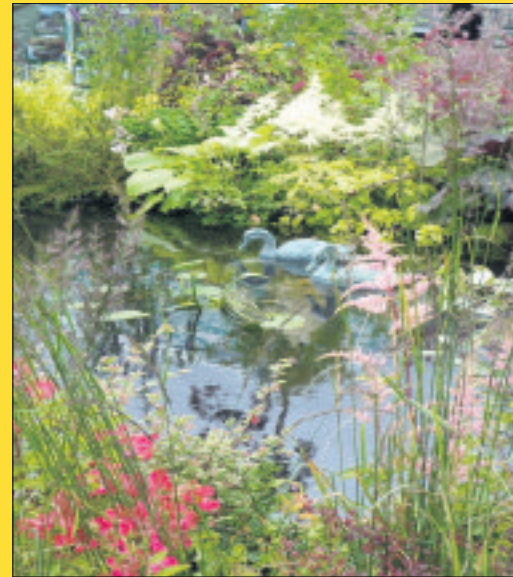
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## How to make the most of your garden layout

**WHETHER** your garden is the messy remains of a previous owner or whether you are beginning with a blank canvas in a new home, you'll need to decide what you want from your new outdoor space. These days, you can get anything from a traditional cottage-style garden to an ultra-modern design of hard landscaping. Think carefully about how you're likely to use your garden, and this will help determine the type you should work on creating.

**Work with what exists**  
It's tempting to raze everything to the ground and start afresh, but you should be prepared to adapt what's already in your garden and to enjoy the process of transformation. A scraggly group of shrubs might provide a much-needed note of maturity in your new planting scheme, once they've been properly

pruned. Always be realistic too about what you can manage. If you have work or family commitments, choose low-maintenance plants and features or all your hard work will go to waste.

### Getting the look right

Do you long for your garden to be a lush oasis of colour and scent or would you prefer something sleek and minimal? Choosing your style will help narrow

down what features might be suitable for your garden. For a tropical garden you'll have to think carefully about plants that look exotic but can survive in the wet British weather. For a contemporary garden you might think creating slate and stone features.

### Protecting your privacy

Your garden is usually a place you will visit to get away from it all, and that means making sure it's pri-

vate. High fences will keep out nosy neighbours, but they will also cut down on natural light. Shrubs are a good option for

creating a softer boundary but if they're not evergreen, they won't be nearly so bushy in the winter months.

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## Garden patio, paving or decking?

**STONE**, slate, decking, gravel - modern gardens are as much about textures as they are about plants. So, choosing the right surface materials is all part of bringing your garden plan to life. Whatever surface you go for, getting the design right in the first place will save you a lot of headaches later. Our Garden Surfaces guide will help you get on top of that vital groundwork.

### Top tips

- If you're laying a patio, create gaps in the design by leaving out a few paving stones. You can fill these openings with decorative gravel, slate or plants.

- Lay decking planks close together (around 5mm). The surface will be more comfortable to walk on in bare feet - and you'll be less likely to lose objects between the cracks!

### Paving

A patio of stone slabs is an ideal way to extend your living space into the garden. If the patio is adjacent to the house, make sure that the surface will be at least 15cm below the damp-proof course. And incorporate a slight fall away from the building, so that rainwater won't pool. A drop of around 1cm per 1m should do the trick. Design-wise, explore slabs of differing - but related - sizes. The patterns you can build up with these slabs will be much more interesting than a plain grid.

### Decking

Decking may have its critics but, as part of a sensitive design, this warm, foot-friendly material takes a lot of beating. Remember, you get what you pay for with decking. Cheap decking just won't last as long or look as good. When you're designing a deck, don't forget to allow sufficient room underneath for air to circulate. Before constructing the deck, cover the area with weed-suppressing membrane held in place with a layer of gravel.

### Gravel

Gravel is the cheapest of the hard surfaces on offer for the garden and it's also one of the easiest to lay. But that doesn't mean you can skimp on the preparation. It's not enough to level the earth, sling down a weed suppressing membrane and scatter some gravel. You need to stabilise the area first. Dig to a depth of at least 10cm and edge the area with pressure-treated timber boards of the same height. Then pack in a 7cm layer of "scalpings" - rough stones. Hire a vibrating compressing machine for this job. Only then can you scatter your 2.5cm layer of sur-

face gravel.

### Best of the rest

The warm hues of brick paths work well in the garden but need regular attention to stop them becoming slippery. They're also a good edging medium. Cobbles - available in natural and artificial stone - make a highly decorative surface. They can be quite a challenge to lay accurately, though. Bark can do duty as an inexpensive material for informal paths. It also makes a great surface for children's play areas. Smooth pieces of slate look smart and are much easier than gravel to push a wheelbarrow over.



## Colourwheel Plants

IT IS fair to say that the Spring weather has not been kind to gardeners! The combination of first dry and then unusually cold weather has stopped many green-fingered plans in their tracks.

As we are already into May (where did the time go!!) it is really important to get started on all that digging, planting, tending and trimming that has been put off until now. So if you are after a summer and autumn of dazzling displays, brilliant beds and luscious lawns - Colour Wheel Plants of Honiton is a great local choice, where you will find everything you need to care for your garden right here on your doorstep.

Our recently opened 5000 square foot garden centre shop offers a complete range of gardening products and accessories for both the traditional gardener and the gardening beginner in a modern, light and airy environment.

Our Shop is stocked full with 1,000's of different product lines, including garden tools, fertilizers, lawn care, propagation aids and seeds to grow your own. You will also find all of the usual seasonal favourites like bedding plants, climbers, perennials, and herbs, as well as a large selection of beautiful roses, alpines and flowering shrubs all ready to plant now.

Colour Wheel Plants now boasts a large wild bird care department dedicated to supporting our feathered friends, including a complete range of

feeders, loose bird seed and lots of new accessories.

If you are looking for that something special for someone special, our newly expanded gift area will provide you with all the inspiration you need.

Don't forget you can relax with a coffee or tea and a slice of home-made cake, or fill up with one of our superb all-day breakfasts made with locally sourced ingredients. Our lunch menu is prepared freshly every day of the week, including our famous traditional roast dinners on Sunday (booking advisable).

With lots of free onsite parking and a dedication to customer service and value for money - our family run garden centre looks forward to welcoming you soon.



## Choosing the right garden furniture

**ELEGANT** and practical furniture will make your outdoor space feel like an extension of your home. In the summer you can use your garden as an extra room, so put as much thought into choosing your garden furniture as you would a three-piece suite.

### Relaxing garden furniture

A fold-out screen will help to create the feeling of an outdoor room on a terrace or patio and will also provide shade from the sun on baking hot days. If you have wooden decking, large square floor cushions and throws can be used to create a cosy area to read or snooze, but for real sun-worshippers, a deckchair or lounger may be more comfortable. Choose from modern gauze fabrics which allow the air to permeate and are easily wiped clean or wooden slatted frames with removable cushions that are washable.

If you have two trees at an appropriate distance from each other, a hammock is perfect for chilling out. If not, don't worry as there are plenty of freestanding hammock designs which are suspended from a metal frame. A pod hanging chair is another great place to relax and also makes for a striking visual feature. Consider investing in a storage bench which will hide away garden games and suntan lotion while providing extra seating.

A simple trickling water feature will create a soothing background noise to help you unwind and, if you are a nature enthusiast, a birdfeeder is brilliant for attracting wildlife.

### Garden dining furniture

When choosing a garden dining table and chairs remember that white and silver reflect so can be uncomfortable to look at in the glaring sun, while black absorbs so can become very hot. A mid-shade of green, grey or any other colour is probably the best solution or alternatively choose furniture in a wood finish. Ask your furniture stockist to advise you on how best to care for the furniture you've chosen, as products will vary depending on the type of wood. Cuprinol Hardwood Garden Furniture Oil, is good for teak and some other woods.

### Outdoor lighting

If you want to use your garden after dark there are plenty of options for lighting.

Choose from decorative lanterns, garden flares, a set of solar powered lamps or outdoor fairy lights. Many garden stores now sell glass baubles for holding tealights which look beautiful suspended by string from a tree or a parasol.



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# Motoring Scene

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## NEW VENTURES



**T**WO new Mazda models have been released under the limited edition name **Venture Edition**.

Mid-range Mazda 2 and Mazda 6 models have been given a bundle of extra equipment and unique paint options with the aim of injecting a little extra life into them in what may be their run-out year.

The 6 Venture Edition will be even more of a company car favourite than the standard car thanks to the addition of a Sanyo TomTom sat-nav system, Bluetooth, part-leather upholstery and heated front seats.

It also gets gunmetal grey 17-inch wheels, a 'sports' front grille and privacy glass around the rear half of the body. Two special paint colours will be optional along with four shades from the regular 6 range.

Petrol and diesel engine options will be available, alongside hatchback and estate body styles.

It will be priced from £21,000 on the road, representing excellent value against the competition. It's also set to be offered with special 0% and 5.9% finance deals until the end of July.

Its smaller cousin, the 2 Venture Edition, also gets the sat-nav and Bluetooth, 16-inch gunmetal grey alloy wheels and one of the optional unique paint colours, called Dolphin Grey mica.

Based on the Mazda 2 Tamura, the Venture Edition

benefits from climate control in place of the 6's upgraded part-leather seats. Other luxuries included as standard are a sports styling kit, front fog lamps, privacy glass and rear bumper sports trim.

It will be available for £12,995 on the road, in conjunction with a 5.9% APR finance deal until the end of July. Only 1,500 Mazda 2 Venture Edition cars will be built, which makes the 6 equivalent look rare but given that the 2 is Mazda's most popular car in the UK, the 1,500 are likely to sell quickly.

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